

Company E 3<sup>rd</sup> Regt. CSA Engineer Troops  
September 10, 2007

Col. R. Settle  
Western Division, ANV  
Commanding

Summary Report of Signal Party Activities  
Station: Talbot Lake

September 1

9:50 AM: With all quiet along our lines and no sign of enemy in strength Lt. French ordered two signal parties to deploy beyond our right flank for general observation duties. Party Chief Pvt. P. McElhaney with Pvts. Thacker, C. McElhaney and Rct. D. Welchons. Party Chief Pvt. D. Franchak with Pvts. Braly, N. Franchak and Rct. M. Collins. At 10:15 AM our attention was attracted by Federal signalmen sending "Confederates approach" using our code. We advanced cautiously and found the Federal's were only interested in trading. After exchanging greetings the Yankee Captain in command of their party offered some very fine coffee from the Sandwich Islands. We had no tobacco but offered some dried beef and goober peas, which they accepted gladly.

1:20 PM: Signal parties same personnel were deployed to support our advanced cavalry and infantry. New codes were in use (since the Yankees apparently had acquired our former code sheets) but through an oversight the signature codes were not properly updated. This caused our messages to be misunderstood or ignored by the officers commanding. By order of Maj. Settle the signal parties were recalled at 1:40 PM and the men rejoined the Company. Casualties: none.

3:40 PM: Signal parties were deployed to support the advance of the Division. Party Chief P. McElhaney, Pvts. Thacker, C. McElhaney. Party Chief Pvt. D. Franchak, Pvts. Braly, N. Franchak, D. Saunders. Pvt. McElhaney was positioned forward with Col. Settle and his staff. Pvt. Franchak was stationed at the left of Lt. Col. Mann's artillery. The signal parties performed effectively, allowing Col. Settle to coordinate the artillery bombardment with the actions of the advancing lines. Casualties: none.

September 2

7:30 AM: Company E enjoyed a breakfast of Sandwich Islands coffee.

11:00 AM: Company engaged as infantry support. Signal parties not deployed.

1:45 PM: Signal parties were deployed to support the advance of the Division. Party Chief P. McElhaney, Pvts. Thacker, N. Franchak. Party Chief Pvt. D. Franchak, Pvts. Zuchowski, C. McElhaney. Officer in charge Lt. French. Pvt. McElhaney was positioned forward with Lt. Col. Peca and his staff. Pvt. Franchak was assigned to Lt. Col. McCreary's infantry brigade. Upon the advance of the infantry brigade Lt. French assigned Pvt. Franchak to Lt. Col. Mann's artillery brigade. The signal parties performed effectively. Federal counterattacks eventually compelling our forces to retreat, the prompt communication via signal flags of the presence of Federal forces on our left flank

allowed many of our troops to withdraw and escape capture. Casualties: 1 killed, 2 wounded, 2 captured.

Respectfully,

B. Kosak  
First Corporal

D. M. Franchak  
Private